Pradesh are pending with the Ministry since July, 1997;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on these proposals despite lapse of 45 months and 17 months respectively in the interest of development of Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Requests are received from time to time from different States of the country including Himachal Pradesh for setting up more LPG distributorships. The locations found economically viable and feasible are included in the Marketing Plan for selection of LPG distributors through prescribed selection procedure. In Himachal Pradesh for eco-fragile areas, Government has been allotting LPG distributorships and extension points direct to the Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation. Of the 37 locations recommended by Government of Himachal Pradesh, one location Kilar, Distt. Chamba has reportedly no motorable road and therefore, not feasible. All other locations are already having extension points or are covered under the area of operation of existing LPG distributors. Of these, 15 locations have been found feasible and included in the Marketing Plans for independent distributorships. Some of these locations have already been advertised.

Non-Availability of Land for ONGC Projects in Gujarat

2751. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC's projects to boost oil production have got bogged down due to land not being made available by the Gujarat Government;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to get the project going?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Two projects of ONGC for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) at Balol and Santhal field in Gujarat have suffered some delay due to non-availability of land for modification works.

(b) The State Government has stopped acquisition of land on temporary basis which has been the practice till now and insist on acquistion of land on permanent basis.

(c) Matter is being consistenly pursued by ONGC with the State Government. The problem of land acquisition has been taken up with the concerned State Government by the Ministry also.

Gas Cracker Unit at Tengakhat

2752. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of Gas, the proposed Gas Cracker Unit at Tengakhat in Upper Assam will use Naptha;

(b) if so, wherefrom the Naptha will be supplied; and

(c) by when the Gas Cracker Unit will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (c) The Government of India has committed to supply to the Assam Gas Cracker Project adequate natural gas required to produce 2 lakhs tonnes per annum of ethylene. For production beyond this level, Naptha may be used. Supply of Naptha to the extent available has been indicated from